



**For Immediate Release**

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**Vrakas Announces 2006 Budget Vetoes**

Waukesha, WIS. – With only nine business days in office, newly elected Waukesha County Executive Dan Vrakas announced his 2006 budget vetoes totaling \$610,000 in expenditure cuts and \$360,000 in tax levy savings at the Administration Center today.

The vetoes will result in a tax rate decrease from \$2.11 per \$1,000 in 2005 to \$1.96 per \$1,000 in 2006, which equates to a 2.2% change in tax levy. It is 20% less than the Republican state legislature's tax freeze limit of 2.8%.

"I am pleased to announce that the veto measures that I am taking uphold my campaign promise to reduce government spending," said Vrakas. "After careful review of the county budget, these actions will result in the largest veto dollar amount in Waukesha County government's history and the lowest tax change since 1999. It is an honor for me to be able to pass these savings on to the taxpayers."

The reductions were realized by re-estimating vacancy and turnover personnel costs, further review of the controlled access security plan for the county government campus, and design reconsideration for Intake Court construction.

Vrakas provided an addendum to the vetoes that urges the County Board to foster legislation via a unified platform with the County Executive's Office to promote a regional University of Wisconsin (UW) Extension Office, as well as to develop a partnership between UW-Waukesha and UW-Milwaukee.

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## **“Vrakas Announces 2006 Budget Vetoes”, continued...**

Vrakas said, “As a former state legislator, I have developed valuable relationships at the state and federal levels that will be beneficial to county business in the future.”

Vrakas also issued five executive orders that called for greater efficiencies from the departments that he oversees. The orders include:

1. Examine potential cost reductions and operating efficiencies that could occur by substituting some or all of the 18 county-owned motor vehicle fuel dispensing sites with private fueling (gas stations) options.
2. Complete a full energy analysis for park buildings to reduce utility usage and costs.
3. Develop a mapping system to determine the most efficient routes for home delivered meals to reduce mileage expenses.
4. Explore data sharing and information technology partnership opportunities and ideas with municipal governments to increase infrastructure cost savings.
5. Establish a methodology for performance-based outcomes for internal and external human service contracted programs.

“I issued these executive orders to direct departments to streamline business practices and to reduce program expenses,” said Vrakas. “The directives are also designed to empower employees to develop innovative service delivery approaches and to cultivate partnerships with other government agencies and the private sector.”

Vrakas urges county residents to show support of these veto actions by contacting their county board supervisor and asking them to approve the measures as proposed. Contact information can be found on the county’s website at [www.waukeshacounty.gov](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov).

For more information about the vetoes and executive orders, please call the County Executive’s Office at (262) 548-7902.

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